

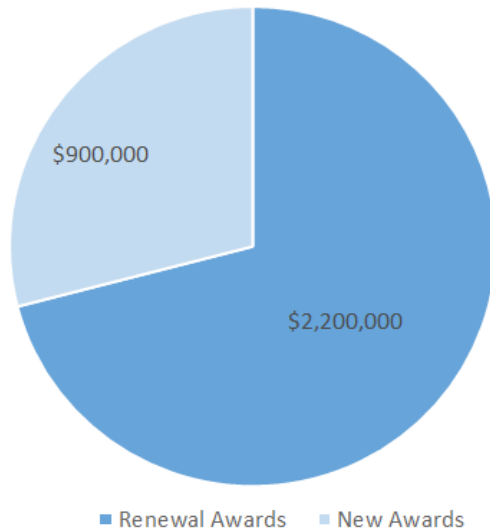


The Phillips Scholar

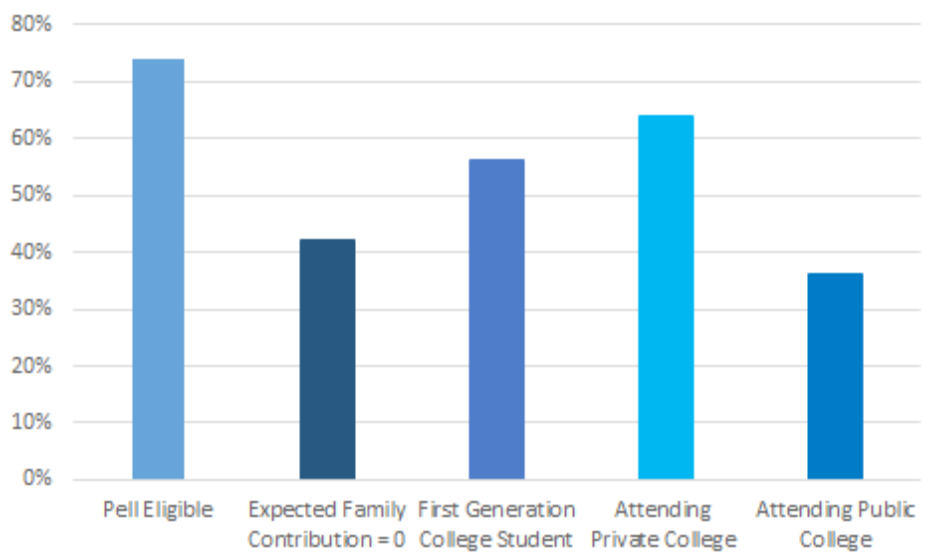
Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc

The 2017 Award Cycle in Review

Award Year Budget



Our 129 New Awardees by the Numbers



An Ongoing Record of Outstanding Outcomes

For over 25 years we have been helping deserving students afford college...

- In 1991, Betty Phillips chose 14 students to be the first group of Phillips Scholars and awarded \$17,500 among them.
- Since then, the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$58 million to over 3,880 recipients.

A thorough selection process has allowed us to identify students who thrive at college...

- For the past five years, the average GPA for each cohort of renewing scholars has exceeded 3.3 (a B+ average).
- Phillips Scholars have a stellar graduation rate of 94%, which compares very favorably to the national rate for the last decade: 59%.

Our Summer Visitors

Every summer, we happily open our doors to meet recipients, learn about their studies and interests, and share history about the Phillips family.



Abbott Joy
Grace College



Estarlyn Hiraldo
Providence College



Savannah Lubanski
Gordon College



Samantha Dargie
Fordham University



An Nguyen
Bridgewater State University



Isaiah Cote
Rochester Institute of Technology



Alejandro Rubero
Salem State University



Wesley Aggrey
Northpoint Bible College



Pelanie Oungougai
Clark University



Allison Contillo
Johnson & Wales University

Meet the 2017-18 Phillips Alumni Scholars

These two new recipients exemplify the characteristics of a Phillips Scholar: academic excellence, dedication to serving others, strong work ethic, and excellent character. All funds raised from our generous alumni and parent donors go towards sponsoring our Phillips Alumni Scholars.

During his high school years at Smithfield Senior High School in Rhode Island, **Matthew Zienkiewicz** dedicated over 500 hours to his community through the Smithfield Police Explorers Program. Matthew told us, “I have always respected men and women in uniform and admired them for their service to our country and community... As a young Explorer I have met many influential police officers who took interest in me and my pursuit of a law enforcement career. Some of them became my mentors and guided me... I have learned how to discipline myself in order to set and accomplish goals, which helped me balance my high school career, part time job, and community service.”

His involvement with the Smithfield Police Explorers Program included working on traffic details during town events, educating young children about bike safety, and living on a military base for a week each summer to experience police academy training. Reflecting on these experiences, Matthew attributes them with “instilling the core values of discipline, stress management, uniformity, and honor.”

This fall Matthew started college at George Mason University in Virginia. Matthew looks forward to continuing his progress towards a career in law enforcement: “While majoring in Criminology, I will also work to receive a concentration study within Homeland Security by completing classes such as Community Policing, Theory and Politics of Terrorism, Constitutional Law, and Surveillance and Privacy in Contemporary Society,” he said. [See next page for second scholar.]



The Latest in Financial Aid News: Prior-Prior Year

In the Headlines

2017 high school seniors were able to begin their Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in October 2016, thanks to new federal regulations allowing the use of two-year-old (prior- prior year) tax information on the form.

The impact seems to have been immediate. The National College Access Network (NCAN) announced in July that an additional 835,000 FAFSAs were submitted by high school seniors this year, in comparison to 2016. Prior to this change, the number of students completing the FAFSA had consistently declined for four years.

In our Office

This year, for the third year in a row, we accepted Early Response applications from students eager to hear back from us before colleges' May 1st deposit deadline. To participate in the early response cycle, students must have all their college financial information by April 1st.

In 2017, we saw an almost 40% increase in the number of Early Response applications over 2016. We would be surprised if the prior-prior year policy did not partially fuel that rise in early submissions, in combination with outreach that we have done to spread awareness about the early option.



Throughout her high school career, **Elizabeth Suarez** was very active in her community of Lawrence, Massachusetts. She volunteered her time visiting the elderly, sorting through donated items for a local thrift shop, and often, serving food at soup kitchens. Elizabeth recalled, “I started doing these activities when I was younger, so these activities have always been a part of me... when you see other people who may not have everything you have, and live a different life than the one you live, it changes you and builds you up. It makes you always want to find a way to help, whether it is serving food or simply having a conversation with a person who comes to the kitchen that day.” She credits her grandmother with teaching her to serve others when she was just a child, so that now the desire to help others is completely ingrained in her.

As Elizabeth grew older, she translated her volunteering experience into the foundation of a career. The summer before her senior year of high school, she took on a job in nutritional services at Lawrence General Hospital. This past summer she told us, “Now, I am going off to college and have pursued a new job called Bring Care Home where I am a Personal Care Assistant and a Homemaker. I provide home health care services in the form of help and support for those who need it. Throughout my college experience I hope to continue with this job or in the area as it is something I love to do.” As she pursues her Bachelor’s degree in Biology from Emmanuel College, Elizabeth knows that no matter what, “I will continue helping others and leaving my mark on people in a positive manner.”

Connect with SPMSF on Social Media!

For Current Recipients: our Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund page on Facebook and @PhillipsScholar on Twitter share important updates about our award cycle.

For Alumni: our new LinkedIn group, Phillips Scholars, is a forum to connect with other Phillips scholars in your city or industry, as well as current recipients and our staff.

We also welcome updates from alumni via the update form posted in the alumni section of our website, www.phillips-scholarship.org.

We would love to see you in cyberspace some time soon.





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Program Director

Kate Gearan
Associate Program Director

Madeleine Jacobs
Program Associate

Stephen Phillips
 Memorial
 Scholarship Fund
www.phillips-scholarship.org
 P.O. Box 870
 Salem MA
 01970

Words of Thanks

We are very grateful for the generous alumni and parents listed below. It is wonderful to see our former recipients reaching out to help others as they were helped. We offer sincere gratitude to each of you for your contribution.

\$2,000 and above

*Michael Bednark

\$500 to \$1,999

Ashley Bonaccorso
 *Ellen Chiu
 *Michael Kishko
 Ashley Makela
 Carmi Santos Punzalan

\$100 to \$499

^Lori Austin
 ^*Robert and Donna Callahan
 *Justine Evans Carroll
 ^*Anthony and Joyce Coelho
 *Christopher Contino
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 *Rachel Hopkins
 *Clayton Huynh
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 ^*Bryan and Karen Malloy
 *Laurel Palazola
 *Caitlin Roller
 *Monica Scott
 Dylan Sirois
 ^*Patrick and Denise Spencer
 *Brittney Sullivan
 *Jesenia Tejada-Perez
 *Aimee Valeras
 ^*Stephen and Plernpis Wong

\$50 to \$99

*Jerry Alcius
 *Kimberly Bridgette

*Sean Callahan

*Fanny Dines
 Gregory Elinson
 Tessa Gallant
 *Jieh Greeney
 *Joshua Hills
 Jennifer Koehler Shay
 *Seamus Kraft
 *Laura Mason
 *Sarah Person
 ^Sandra St. Hilaire
 Huy Tran

\$5 to \$49

Anonymous (2)
 Catherine Bekel
 ^*Eleanor Phillips
 Brackbill
 Alycia Buchheit
 *Ian Camacho
 *Molly Carmody
 Phoebe Cole
 ^*William Corley

Alexandria Fouliard
 Keegan Henrikson
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 ^*Kathleen and Frederick Insler
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 ^Steven Kingsbury
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 *Megan Oliveira
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 *Brad Russo
 *Nicole Shadeed
 ^*Jeanne Thomases

* *Multiple-year donor*
 ^ *Parent donor*